

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 21, 2000

LB 1217

study and it seems to me this issue is monumental enough and difficult enough that it deserves the...the emphasis, if you will, of a task force appointed by the Governor, and when I found the Governor willing to do that and provide some emphasis and also he was experiencing frustration I'm sure from the budget side, I thought that's probably the best hope in trying to get good information that has some impact. With respect to the question about the NSEA, as Senator Landis mentioned, they did come in neutral on this...on this proposal. They did suggest that the task force be expanded from 10 to 18, which I actually expanded it to 20, so that there would be ample numbers, opportunities for appointment. They did have a specific recommendation on who should be on that task force. I did not incorporate that into my amendment, but I certainly had no objections to their suggestions and I hope that we'll convey those suggestions to the Governor if this bill...if this amendment is adopted. With respect to the other part of Senator Landis' question, is this some backdoor way to raise the teacher health insurance issue, I can assure you that it is not and my efforts in that area a couple three years ago again were...my motivation was that I was looking for ways to bring efficiencies into the system, not to take away health insurance, suggesting they do some bidding or some looking at the programs that they had available to them and, as a matter of fact, it seems to me like I'm hearing that that's what they're trying to do now more so. In fact, they did apparently have some competition for the contract. But, be that as it may, my effort on this is much...is much more comprehensive and I'm interested in all government provided health insurance, whether we're doing the best we can do, whether there should be some disparities as there are now between different groups of employees, whether we should be looking at more self-insurance, whether we shouldn't. What are...what are the answers? I don't know, but I do hope we can look at benefit mechanisms, eligibility standards, employee contribution rates and all those things in some detail. So...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...I would ask for your support in adopting the amendment. Thank you, Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bromm. You've heard the